Fletcher Prouty
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5/30/91

Dear Feltch,

Thanks for your very informative 5/27. It does help my understanding.

I didn't know you'd been operated on. From my experience you are absolutely right to want to get all the exercise you can. I've been prohibited most and I sure feel it!

My recollection must have been incorrect on the date the Post published the second of those two short stories I do remember. It must have been much later. But what I recall of it is consistent with the changed LBJ policy that came later.

The content of the first one is entirely consistent with the front page of the Pacific Stars and Stripes I'm glad to have and thank you for.

I do not have JFK's Trade Mart speech to which you refer. Is it in what the Commission published? I do not recall that it is. If you have a copy and it isn't too much trouble I'd appreciate one, thanks. I don't recall ever reading it.

You refer to the Dulles ~~homes~~ homes. It may amuse you to know that I knew Foster's kitchen rather well. He was a customer. He loved my birds and they were one of the foods he did enjoy that did not activate his gout. Once when both were away the butler (husband of the cook) showed me the living room. If I recall correctly, rather dull silk upholstery. I have a clearer recollection of the whiskey he preferred, which was given to me. Old Overholt, an old rye brand. I had no interest in the living room but did not want to offend the butler. Place on the west side of Woodland Drive, on the curve of a fairly steep hill as I now recall. When she was away she left his menu for every day she'd be gone.

I've very glad that you explained the steps JFK took to see to it that Diem was not assassinated. I'd not even heard of that.

When you say we never saw a known missile in Cuba did you mean warhead? I don't remember any proof any were there but what were those pictures flashed at the UN and on TV if not missles in Cuba?

I agree with you that in 1962 a real world war was unthinkable. But then the USSR had that treaty with Castro, "mutual" assistance. No way they could protect Cuba. So Khruschev put the missiles in. How was JFK going to get them out by force other than by a world war?

So, he didn't use force and the world moved well ahead until he was assassinated.

My work on the Tonkin Gulf was without any access to any official records. It was contemporaneous analysis if what was being released, including the supposedly verbatim transcripts of what was radioed, if I recall now. It convinced me that it never happened as LBJ alleged.

A friend has promised to copy those extracts from the Gravel edition, thanks.

When Tad Sculc identified "Eduardo" as his friend Barker I lost the little doubt I had about Sculc's connections. He knew Hunt well and that was not a simple mistake.

Again thanks and best wishes, Harold Weisberg